OPEN Arms

April 1997 * Vol. 9 Number 4

P.O. Box 845 Mishawaka, IN 46546

WORKING WOMYN'S ALERT!!!

"No Pay for Overtime"

Family-friendly Republicans want to lift the 40 hour work week. "The Working Families Flexability Act" just recently passed by the House of Representatives and a similar one *NOW in Congress* would allow employers to offer workers compensentory time off as a substitute for overtime pay. The Senate version would change current law so that overtime would begin after you worked 80 hours in two weeks, instead of 40 hours in one week. Anyone working over a 40 hour week could get paid in either hours or wages. Great idea in concept, but it is not clear whether this bill gives choices to the workers or even to their bosses.

Karen Nussbaum with the AFL-CIO calls it "a wolf in sheep's clothing." She is concerned that people working in sweatshops and other low wage settings will be worse off. What every worker wants is a choice. But under this bill, it's uncertain who gets the power to decide when employees will get comp time. The length of the average work week for U.S. industrial employees has been rising steadily since 1980, to a recent high of 44 hours a week. When employers have to pay workers at the time-and-a-half rate, it costs them dearly. But if employees are paid with comp time doled out during slow times, you could be working 60 hours one week and 20 the next. Try coordinating that with the day care sitter.

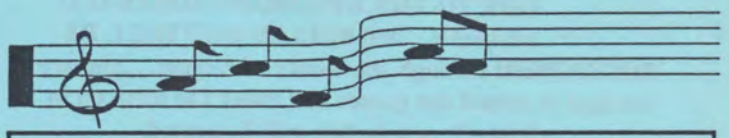
Marianne Hart is a second-shift hourly worker at a plastics factory in California. She says "This comp time, flex time, it's a bunch of garbage. Anybody who's ever worked in a factory knows that. What if I put in all these extra hours of work and then I ask for comp time in the busiest week of the year. Do you think I'm going to get it? Not in my lifetime."

Having watched her factory shift hands in repeated corporate buy-outs, Hart also wonders how workers would be "paid" comp time owed them by corporations that sell out or simply close their doors. "If they shut my factory, where do I go to collect my comp time?"

The unions resist comp time out of the fear that workers will be coerced out of their overtime pay. The business interests want control in the hands of the employers.

Despite *safeguards* added to the bill, the most vulnerable workers and their families could still be worse off. At this time, The Working Family Flexibilities Act looks like just another kind of highway robbery.

.....excerpted from "the Progressive" and the South Bend Tribune



WGCS, 91.1 FM presents "A WOMEN'S CIRCLE" every Sunday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Word has reached us that the signal for WGCS isn't very strong and may be overwhelmed by WAUS (90.7)

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P-FLAG

(PARENTS AND FRIENDS of LESBIANS & GAYS)
Meetings are held on the 4th Sunday of the month 2-4 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 17195 Cleveland Road, South Bend, In.
For more information:
Nancy Mascotte 219-277-2684 or
P.O. Box 4195, South Bend, IN. 46634-4195

"Being attacked on the air by Rush Limbaugh is like being gummed by a newt. It doesn't hurt, but it leaves slime on your ankles." Molly Ivins

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Suze.....219-254-8676 (Beeper)
Kaye & Marcia.....219-271-0338
Jean.....219-259-2177

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the May newsletter is April.12th. Submissions received after April.12th may not be published in the April newsletter. Mail submissions to *Open Arms,* P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or give to any staff member.

Newsletter Meeting April 6, 6:30 p.m. For more information call 219-271-0338

COMMUNITY EVENTS

DUE TO THE UPCOMING SOFTBALL SEASON, 3rd FRIDAY OUT WILL BE POSTPONED through the month of August.....you are invited to attend the games and cheer the team on to victory!! a schedule will be posted when it becomes available

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APRIL 5 & 6, 8:00 pm Sat & 3:00 pm Sun.....Warren Performing Arts Center, Indianapolis, (317-898-9722) Holly Near will appear with the Indianapolis Men's Chorus. Long known for her folksongs and romantic ballads, Holly has been described as having a voice as beautiful as Joan Baez, with the emotional range of Joan Armatrading.

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APRIL 5, Suzanne Westenhoefer 1997 CD ReleaseTour Wall Street, Columbus, Ohio (614-464-2800)

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APRIL 15, Cris Williamson & Tret Fure "Between the Covers" 1997 CD Release Tour The Bluebird Cafe, Nashville, Tn. (615-683-5308)

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APRIL 12, 7:30 pm.....Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, 1650 West Foster, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Andersonville, Illinois, (773-477-8362) is having a fundraiser for WACT (Womyn of All ColorsCultures Together) WACT presents a dessert table/ open mike at the coffeehouse. All womyn are welcome. Bring a sweet and/or a sweetie!! Contact Phyllis Johnson for info: (773-276-2411)

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APRIL 13, 7:30 pm.....ANI DIFRANCO appearing in The Egyptian Room at the Murat Centre, in downtown Indianapolis, with special guest Dan Bern. The 26 year-old eclectic folk/pop/rock singer/songwriter/musician has been called the word-of-mouth phenomenon. Call the Murat Box office at 317-231-0000 or Ticketmaster at 317-239-5151

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THROUGH APRIL 27.....GEORGIA O'KEEFE paintings at the Indianapolis Museum of Art ..... For more information call 317-923-1331

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APRIL 30....."ELLEN" coming out on prime-time TV. Helping Ellen DeGeneres with this historical network leap, actress Laura Dern, talk-show host Oprah Winfrey and openly lesbian singers Melissa Etheridge and k.d. lang. Check your local tv listings for time (ABC)

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NOTRE DAME SOFTBALL

April 4, 4:00pm vs. Boston College
April 6, 11:00am vs. Providence
April 15, 3:30pm vs.Northwestern
April 17, 4:00pm vs. Valparaiso
April 23, 4:00pm vs Butler
April 26, 12:00pm vs. Rutgers
April 27, 11:00am vs. Rutgers

UP AND COMING EVENTS

May 16-18 .....the 3rd ANNUAL GATHERING OF PRIESTESSES in Southwestern Wisconsin. The gathering will be held at a state park approx. 2 hours from Madison. The indoor camp includes a lodge and communal bunkhouse-style cabins with bathrooms and hot showers. Vegetarian meals will be served. Attend workshops with topics like 'Celebrating the Goddess through Dance and Movement.' Registration fee $90-$120. SASE for free brochure, RCG, Box 6677, Madison WI.53716 Contact Deb or Jade 608-257-5858

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MAY 29-JUNE 1 in Bloomington, In.....National Women's Music Festival
NWMF, Dept. LC, PO Box 1427
Indianapolis, IN. 46206
phone/fax 317-927-9355 email via@indynet.com

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JUNE 21, 8 pm-12am (IND) 9pm-1am (MICH) Lavender Rhythm is having a **Summer DANCE,** Pickwick Place, 219 N. 4th St. Niles, Mich. Admission is $7.00 at the door. Womyn only, smoking room inside, BYOB. For more info (616-684-7362)

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JUNE 21.....Women's National Basketball Association, sponsored by the NBA, is to debut. Eight teams will have a 28 game season that concludes August 30th. Players include Rebecca Lobo, Sheryl Swoopes, and Lisa Leslie. All were members of the USA's gold-medal winning Olympic team.

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AUGUST 12-17 near Hart, Michigan.....Michigan Womyn's Music Festival
WWTMC, Box 22, Valhalla, MI. 49458
phone 616-757-4766

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SEPTEMBER 6 in Columbus, Ohio....Ohio Womyn's Festival womyn's music and craft booths... (11am-12mid) for more info.....614-267-3953

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LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP
Every Tuesday ..7-9pm.... for info: write to LSG, P.O. Box 1612, Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

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Chrome Plated Hearts

woman's motorcycle club

This is a group of career women united by the love of motorcycling. Ride dates and Rain dates will be scheduled.
Our goal is to replace the misleading stereotype with a new, respectable image-especially for women. For more info: please call 219-596-8091
sid@cyberlink-inc.com. Mon.-Fri. 5pm to 8pm

MOTHER NATURE IS A LESBIAN

BY LEE LYNCH

I finally understand why nature is called Mother. Don't worry, I'm not launching into a separatist anti-patriarchal diatribe. We've been through a flood here and I'm awed.

Men, fathers, may be the ultimate family authority, run most governments, start wars, operate agribusinesses, and be the primary builders/excavators of earth, but - well, let me tell you the story of our park.

I go the park to run the dog along the river, wetlands trail or beaver pond. It's a wildlife sanctuary, healing haven, natural playground and cradle to a river that flows from a volcanic lake into the Pacific Ocean.

In summer ministers conduct outdoor services under a pavilion surrounded by groomed lawn. Raucous wedding parties disturb the Song Sparrows. But at the river, there is no sound except the flowing waters, scolding Kingfisher and mewling Osprey.

As a city kid I learned that a park is to be respected and protected. In the sticks I suppose there's just too much country for folks to hold a piece of wild land inviolate. Little things began to happen.

It started inside me. During the anti-gay ballot measures I felt terribly vulnerable tromping the trails. As Oregon became more divided between pro-gay eco-liberals and wise use anti-gay conservatives, beer cans appreared in coves along the river. Bonfires smoldered near dry brush. Trail signs were knocked over and birdhouses deliberately smashed. I met forbidden trail bikes and found A.T.V. tracks. Cables were sliced so 4-wheel drive pickups could play Big Wheels on the eroding riverbanks.

Our Audubon Society chapter replaced bird houses, cleaned up, resurrected signs, brought a federal official to see the damage. And brought him back again when a park neighbor bulldozed the beaver pond to "improve" his property. The pond drained.

It was a slow ironic process, but as the anti-gays were beaten back, the park looked respected once again. Bluebirds and swallows returned to houses. I met bird watchers and rare plant enthusiasts along the trails.

Maybe we did too good a job. The next thing we knew the local remote control plane/car/boat hobby club decided our park would make a perfect runway/speedway/mini-marina.

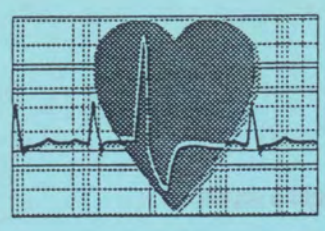
The movie will be called Showdown on the Wetlands. The all-male wannabe pilots and racers were in a line, their backs to the pesticide-ridden orchards. They swore the planes made no noise and assured us they'd take down only a few habitat trees. The mixed female/male group of protestors were clumped along an overflow pond that hosts herons and ducks. An ornithologist told the motor-men what they'd be doing to the Blue Heron rookery.

Maybe for a few million nuts they could cast that wiry red squirrel with a voice like a rusty hinge whose burrow is right square on the site of the proposed race circuit.

Closeup: Mother Nature riding a faint crescent moon over the park, witnessing the showdown. She cries, "I'll show the sons of women"! It began to rain. The rain filled the ruined beaver pond. It merged the overflow ponds and flooded the proposed runway. Raging over its banks it covered every man-made "improvement." By New Year's Day the river crested on the rooftop of the pavilion where the preachers preached and the breeders married.

Mother Nature took off her gloves, took over, took back what's hers. Men's plans? Her river roared with laughter.

Copyright Lee Lynch 1997



HEALTH BEAT

MASSAGE

Massage is the healing touch that not only releases tension, it also creates an overall feeling of well being. Massage can also help relieve more serious health problems such as: *Chronic back pain *Neck pain *Headache/ migrains *Poor circulation *Fibromyalgia *TMJ *Arthritis

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TREADMILL IS TOPS FOR INDOOR EXERCISE

Treadmill walking and running burns more calories and provides the best cardiovascular training, compared with other exercise machines.

.....

STRESS & CANCER

In a study of more than 100 women with early-stage breast cancer, doctor's at King's College Hosp. in London found that fully 50 percent had experienced at least one severe adverse event- -such as a divorce or the death of a relative in the past year. Further studies are planned.

A clay pot sitting in the sun will always be a clay pot. It has to go through the white heat of the furnace to become porcelain.

—Mildred Witte Stouven

Actually there's nothing wrong with being a clay pot. It's just that all of us have the possibility of becoming porcelain. And it isn't quite so simple as just being fired or not being fired. Some of us explode in the kiln. Some of us collapse before we ever reach the kiln, and some of us develop horrible cracks that seriously threaten our utilitarian value.

Yet probably the saddest response is to have gone through the firing and to refuse to become porcelain. All of us have furnaces in our lives. Not all of us glean the lessons from the firing.

From .."Meditations for WOMEN Who Do Too Much"
Anne Wilson Schaef

COURT OF FRIENDS

Okay all you singles!! Looking for that special someone?? Here is your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you and what you are seeking in another.

Send your information to:
The Court of Friends
P.O.Box 845, Mishawaka, IN. 46546

You will be assigned an ID number. Your letter and ID number will be published in the next issue (depending upon when we receive your information). Those wishing to respond to to a published single may do so by enclosing their reply in a stamped, sealed envelope with the ID number written in pencil on the front of the envelope. Place your reply into another envelope and mail to the Court of Friends P.O. Box. Your reply will then be addressed to the corresponding single and mailed.

#58 Do you love to dance and romance? Are you looking for your dreamlover? Well, Here I am! SWF looking for SWF, 28-36 to share my love and life with. No drugs, only hugs. Write Me. I'll be waiting.

****

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IN THE NEWS

Actions speak louder than words, but not so often.

SAN FRANCISCO--A lesbian executive is the sole funder of an anti-discrimination TV ad slated to run during an "Ellen" episode in which the show's lead character will reveal that she's attracted to women.

Jessica Stevens, president and chief executive of Redwood City-based Telegen Corp., donated $225,000 to the Human Rights Campaign, the Washington-based gay rights group said Friday.

The group is using the money to produce and air a public service announcement on 29 ABC affliliates nationwide during the April 30 show. The ad is designed to build support in Congress for the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, which would ban such discrimination nationwide. The ad depicts the reaction of co-workers to a lesbian who is fired because of her sexual orientation.

Stevens--who attended the taping of the "Ellen" coming-out episode--also said her donation is a tribute to Ellen DeGeneres, the show's star.

"I'm honoring her for what she's doing--for the guts, the bravery that she has," Stevens said.--South Bend Tribune

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ABC executives have now decided that rather than put "Ellen" on hiatus they will move the show to Tuesdays at 8:30 from March 4 to April 23. Her coming out plans are *still* unclear. To express your opinion write Jamie Tarses, Entertainment President ABC TV, 2040 Avenue of the Stars 7th Floor, Century City, CA 90067. --*GLAADLines*

A women-owned funeral firm in England is now offering women-only undertaking services. The team of six women who work for Martha's Funerals perform a vaiety of services, ranging from collecting a body and laying it out to a full funeral using female pallbearers and hearse drivers. Barbara Butler, co-owner of the firm, explains, "Some people couldn't care less about what happens when they are dead, but others worry a great deal about who will handle their bodies..You may think it's a feminist thing, but it's not. We have people of all ages calling us, from all walks of life." --*Denver Post*

In Elkhart: Will share 3-Bedroom house w/female..... Call for more information 219-293-2138

The PET REFUGE, 2300 W. Sixth St. (4 blocks east of Ironwood & just south of LWE) Mishawaka, is continuing to accept aluminum cans to help with their operating funds. They are also seeking additional members, volunteers, and/or sponsors to help with the animals. Donations of dog and cat supplies are greatly appreciated. Contributions are tax deductible. (219-256-0886)

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We would be happy to add your service and telephone # to this column for free; just send the info to P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, In. 46546

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Advertising	96.00
Donations	25.00
	$2351.06
Expenditures:	
Postage	$587.20
Paper & Envelopes	265.18
Photocopying	118.78
P.O. Box Rent	40.00
Bank Charges	10.50
H.O.C. (helping our community)	200.00
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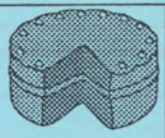
		1  Happy Birthday **BARBARA F.** LSG 7-9PM	2 N.O.W. meeting St. Joe. Library 7 P.M.	3	4 ND vs. Boston College 4pm	5
6 Open Arms 6:30pm meeting ND vs. Providence 11am	7	8 **LSG 7-9PM**	9	10 Birthday Wishes..... **SHERRIE H.**	11	12 Happy Birthday **SHARON S.**
13	14	15 ND vs. Northwestern 3:30pm LSG 7-9PM	16	17 ND vs. Valparaiso 4:00 pm	18	19 Best Wishes **CHERYL W.**
20	21 **BRIDGET K.**	22 **LSG 7-9PM**	23 Nd vs. Butler 4:00 pm	24 BIRTHDAY WISHES TO: **LYNN C.**	25 National.... Take Our Daughters to Work Day!!	26 ND vs. Rutgers 12:00 pm
27 ND vs. Rutgers 11:00 am **PFLAG 2-4 p.m.**	28	29 **LSG 7-9PM**	30			